

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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CU - MRS. BARNES

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R 241712Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, IN

SUBJECT: THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR INDIAN STUDIES -  
BUDGET PROBLEM

FOR AMBASSADOR SAXBE FROM KUX

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY LEARNED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE  
HOUSE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE'S ACTION TO STRIKE OUT THE  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION'S ENTIRE REQUEST FOR SPECIAL  
FOREIGN CURRENCY FUNDS, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INDIAN  
STUDIES MAY SHORTLY FIND ITSELF IN DIRE FINANCIAL STRAITS.  
AIIS RECEIVES ABOUT 75 PERCENT OF ITS FUNDING FROM THE  
SMITHSONIAN. MUCH SMALLER AMOUNTS COME FROM OTHER SOURCES,  
INCLUDING THE CU ALLOCATION OF ABOUT \$80 THOUSAND.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE WAS SHOWING ITS  
ANNOYANCE OVER PRESS CHARGES THAT THE SMITHSONIAN WAS  
ENGAGED IN A VARIETY OF OVERSEAS BOONDOGGLES. THE HOUSE  
GROUP WAS APPARENTLY UNAWARE THAT THE SMITHSONIAN BUDGET  
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INCLUDED A NUMBER OF OTHER PROGRAMS SUCH AS AIIS AND FUNDS

FOR A SIMILAR INSTITUTE IN EGYPT. SMITHSONIAN IS NOW WORKING ON THE SENATE SIDE IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID REPEAT PERFORMANCE. AT THIS POINT, PROSPECTS LOOK REASONABLY GOOD, BUT AFTER THE HOUSE DEBACLE NO ONE CONSIDERS SENATE ACTION A SURE THING.

3. PROFESSOR HAROLD GOULD OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH ASIA RESEARCH COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN STUDIES CAME IN TO TALK ABOUT THE AIIS PROBLEM. GOULD HAS BEEN LOBBYING ON THE SENATE SIDE IN SUPPORT OF THE SMITHSONIAN REQUEST AND WONDERED WHETHER YOU MIGHT PUT IN A FAVORABLE WORD FOR AIIS WITH MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIOR SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH DEALS WITH THE SMITHSONIAN WHEN YOU COME BACK HERE NEXT WEEK. I SAID WE WOULD PASS THIS REQUEST ALONG TO YOU.

4. DEPARTMENT IS NATURALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AIIS'S RUNNING OUT OF MONEY SINCE WE FEEL IT SERVES A USEFUL PURPOSE AND HOPE THAT THE HOUSE ACTION CAN BE TURNED AROUND BY THE SENATE'S APPROVAL OF FUNDS AND THEN FAVORABLE ACTION IN THE JOINT CONFERENCE. ROBINSON

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